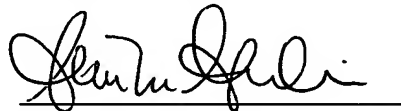


REMARKS

The foregoing amendments eliminate the multiple dependent claim format so as to avoid the concomitant surcharge therefor, as well as correct minor typographical errors. Entry and consideration of this Preliminary Amendment are respectfully requested, and an examination on the merits hereof in due course is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any additional fees due to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven M. Gruskin

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Date: December 16, 2004